

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof;

and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including amorphous carbon with a metal selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, an alkali metal and an earth metal, the carbon shell being an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure.

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- 2 -

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